



Job Description

College	UCD College of Health and Agricultural Sciences
School	UCD School of Medicine
Unit	Systems Biology Ireland (SBI)
Post Title	Research Assistant
Project	SFI IvP Programme – Research Support
Post Duration	1 year
Reports to	Prof Walter Kolch (or nominee)
HR Reference No.	010680
HR Administrator	Laura Serrano

Position Summary

Systems Biology Ireland (SBI, <http://www.ucd.ie/sbi/>) established in 2009 under SFI's CSET initiative, has successfully developed an integrated mathematical modelling and experimental research programme focusing on the design of new diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to diseases, primarily cancer, based on a systems level, mechanistic understanding of cellular signal transduction networks. To accomplish these goals, SBI uses mathematical and computational modelling approaches in combination with cutting edge experimental technologies in proteomics, genomics, advanced microscopy and flow cytometry as well as cell biology and molecular biology methods. SBI's expertise, particularly in the area of modelling in systems pharmacology and therapeutics, strategically position it at the crossroads between biology and medicine.

The purpose-built SBI facility, supported by the HEA's PRTL15 programmes sits in the space between the UCD Conway Institute and the Health Sciences Centre (School of Medicine and Medical Sciences). It is physically linked to both buildings, providing access to existing technology platforms, educational and conference facilities and ideally placed to train allied healthcare professionals. The facility houses a multidisciplinary team of some 50 researchers including bioinformaticians, statisticians, computational scientists and modellers, engineers, biologists, biochemists and physicists.

In order to support our experimental capabilities in this area, we want to expand our team by a Research Assistant who will handle general aspects of laboratory duties for an interdisciplinary research group that works in skin cancer with a focus on elucidating the underlying mechanisms and the network adaptations of drug resistance in order to design personalized drug combinations that can avoid or overcome this resistance.

The appointee should have a broad repertoire of technical skills and methods used for the analysis of signal transduction networks, including cell biology, protein biochemistry, and standard molecular biology. In addition, the candidate will have expertise in imaging techniques such as confocal microscopy.

The Research Assistant will be part of the wider interdisciplinary SBI team consisting of biologists, computational scientists and mathematicians. While the emphasis of this post is on supporting experimental work, the appointee will be expected to have a strong interest to collaborate with theoreticians.

Salary: €21,674- €28,423 per annum

Appointment on the above range will be dependent on qualifications and experience

Principal Duties and Responsibilities

- You will be part of an interdisciplinary team consisting of biologists, computational scientists and mathematicians. While the emphasis of this post is on supporting experimental work, you will

have a strong interest to collaborate with theoreticians.

- Provide technical support on biochemical, cell biological, molecular biology, and imaging experiments as required.
- Assist the Centre Manager and Lab Manager to maintain operational efficiency within the group including but not limited to stock holding, ordering, maintaining the group's database for plasmids/cell lines/antibodies, sample preparation, buffer formulation, glassware maintenance and autoclaving
- Engage in the dissemination of the results of the research as directed by and with the support of your Principal Investigator
- Provide technical support, as appropriate and as directed, to the post-doctoral staff and research graduate students
- Assist the Centre Manager and Lab manager to carry out administrative work associated with the programme of research including the preparation of reports
- Additional duties may be required from time to time as requested by the SBI Director or his nominee. Engage in the appropriate training and professional development opportunities as required by the Principal Investigator or the university

Selection Criteria

Selection criteria outline the qualifications, skills, knowledge and/or experience that the successful candidate would need to demonstrate for successful discharge of the responsibilities of the post. Applications will be assessed on the basis of how well candidates satisfy these criteria.

Mandatory

- A third level degree qualification in biology, biochemistry, synthetic biology, or molecular biology
- General all-round skills in cell biology, protein biochemistry, molecular biology, imaging
- Understanding of cancer cell biology
- Good work ethic
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, and a strong collaborative spirit

Desirable

- MSc in a relevant area
- Eukaryotic tissue culture
- Advanced Imaging techniques, e.g. confocal microscopy
- Experience in working as part of a multidisciplinary research team
- An appropriate record of scientific contributions to the field, such as publications or conference contributions

Further Information for Candidates

Supplementary information

The University:	http://www.ucd.ie/aboutucd.htm
The College of Health & Agricultural Sciences:	http://www.ucd.ie/collegesandschools/healthagriculturalsciences/
The School of Medicine	http://www.ucd.ie/medicine/
Systems Biology Ireland:	http://www.ucd.ie/sbi

Relocation Expenses



Will not apply



Will be applied in accordance with the [UCD Relocation Policy](#)

Garda Vetting required: **NO** **YES** – Garda Vetting will be conducted for the recommended candidate(s) as part of the selection process for the post in accordance with the [UCD Garda Vetting Policy](#)**Informal Enquiries ONLY to:**

Name:	Eadaoin Mc Kiernan
Title:	SBI Centre Manager
Email address:	Eadaoin.mckiernan@ucd.ie

Eligibility to compete and certain restrictions on eligibility

Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement (ISER):	It is a condition of the Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement (ISER) as set out in Department of Finance Circular 12/09 that retirees, under that Scheme, are debarred from applying for another position in the same employment or the same sector. Therefore, such retirees may not apply for this position
Department of Health and Children Circular (7/2010):	The Department of Health Circular 7/2010 dated 1 November 2010 introduced a Targeted Voluntary Early Retirement (VER) Scheme and Voluntary Redundancy Schemes (VRS). It is a condition of the VER scheme that persons availing of the scheme will not be eligible for re-employment in the public health sector or in the wider public service or in a body wholly or mainly funded from public moneys. The same prohibition on re-employment applies under the VRS, except that the prohibition is for a period of 7 years, after which time any re-employment will require the approval of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. People who availed of either of these schemes are not eligible to complete in this competition.
Collective Agreement - Redundancy Payments to Public Servants:	The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform letter dated 28th June 2012 to Personnel Officers introduced, with effect from 1st June 2012, a Collective Agreement which had been reached between the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and the Public Services Committee of the ICTU in relation to ex-gratia Redundancy Payments to Public Servants. It is a condition of the Collective Agreement that persons availing of the agreement will not be eligible for re-employment in the public service by any public service body (as defined by the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Acts 2009 – 2011) for a period of 2 years from termination of the employment. Thereafter the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform will be required prior to re-employment. People who availed of this scheme and who may be successful in this competition will have to prove their eligibility (expiry of period of non-eligibility) and the Minister’s consent will have to be secured prior to employment by

	any public service body.
Declaration:	Applicants will be required to a Pre-Employment Declaration to confirm whether they have previously availed of a public service scheme of incentivised early retirement and/or the collective agreement outlined above. The above represents the main schemes and agreements restricting a candidate’s right to be re-employed in the public service. However it is not intended to be an exhaustive list and candidates should declare details of any other exit mechanism they have availed of which restricts their right to be re-employed in the public service. Applicants will also be required to declare any entitlements to a Public Service pension benefit (in payment or preserved) from any other Public Service employment and/or where they have received a payment-in-lieu in respect of service in any Public Service employment.
Superannuation and Retirement:	<p>The successful candidate will be offered the appropriate superannuation terms and conditions as prevailing in the University, at the time of being offered an appointment. In general, and except for candidates who have worked in a pensionable (non-single scheme terms) public service job in the 26 weeks prior to appointment (see paragraph d below), this means being offered appointment based on membership of the Single Public Service Pension Scheme (“Single Scheme”).</p> <p>Key provisions attaching to membership of the Single Scheme are as follows:</p>
<p>a. Pensionable Age - The minimum age at which pension is payable is 66 (rising to 67 and 68) in line with State Pension age changes.</p> <p>b. Retirement Age - Scheme members must retire at the age of 70.</p> <p>c. Pension Abatement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the appointee was previously employed in the Civil Service or in the Public Service please note that the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012 includes a provision which extends abatement of pension for all Civil and Public Servants who are re-employed where a Public Service pension is in payment. This provision to apply abatement across the wider public service came into effect on 1 November 2012. This may have pension implications for any person appointed to this position who is currently in receipt of a Civil or Public Service pension or has a preserved Civil or Public Service pension which will come into payment during his/her employment in this position. • Department of Education and Skills Early Retirement Scheme for Teachers Circular 102/2007 The Department of Education and Skills introduced an Early Retirement Scheme for Teachers. It is a condition of the Early Retirement Scheme that with the exception of the situations set out in paragraphs 10.2 and 10.3 of the relevant circular documentation, and with those exceptions only, if a teacher accepts early retirement under Strands 1, 2 or 3 of this scheme and is subsequently employed in any capacity in any area of the public sector, payment of pension to that person under the scheme will immediately cease. Pension payments will, however, be resumed on the ceasing of such employment or on the person’s 60th birthday, whichever is the later, but on resumption, the pension will be based on the person’s actual reckonable service as a teacher (i.e. the added years previously granted will not be taken into account in the calculation of the pension payment). 	

- Ill-Health-Retirement

Please note that where an individual has retired from a Civil/Public Service body on the grounds of ill-health his/her pension from that employment may be subject to review in accordance with the rules of ill-health retirement within the pension scheme of that employment.

d. Prior Public Servant - While the default pension terms, as set out in the preceding paragraphs, consist of Single Scheme membership, this may not apply to certain appointees. Full details of the conditions governing whether or not a public servant is a Single Scheme member are given in the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and other Provisions) Act 2012. However the key exception case (in the context of this competition and generally) is that a successful candidate who has worked in a pensionable (non-single scheme terms) capacity in the public service within 26 weeks of taking up appointment, would in general not become a member of the Single Scheme. In this case such a candidate would instead be offered membership of the UCD Pension Scheme. This would mean that the abatement provisions at (c) above would apply, and in addition there are implications in respect of pension accrual as outlined below:

e. Pension Accrual - A 40-year limit on total service that can be counted towards pension where a person has been a member of more than one existing public service pension scheme would apply. This 40-year limit, which is provided for in the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and other Provisions) Act 2012 came into effect on 28 July 2012. This may have implications for any appointee who has acquired pension rights in a previous public service employment.

f. Pension-Related Deduction - This appointment is subject to the pension-related deduction in accordance with the Financial Emergency Measure in the Public Interest Act 2009.

For further information in relation to the Single Public Service Pension Scheme for Public Servants please see the following website: <http://www.per.gov.ie/pensions>.